

Appl. No. 09/403,894
Amdt. dated September 25, 2003
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited
Procedure Examining Group

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 19, 24-26, 28-29, 32 and 36 are pending.

Applicants note with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 19, 24-25, 29 and 31.

Claims 26-30, 32 and 36 stand rejected. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

In the previous amendment, applicants amended claim 26 to include the subject matter of claim 31. However, applicants neglected to include the subject matter of claim 30 (upon which claim 31 depended) and claim 27 (upon which claim 30 depended). Accordingly, applicants have amended claim 26 to include the subject matter of claims 27 and 30. It is respectfully submitted that claim 26 is now allowable as indicated by the Examiner in the office action mailed November 12, 2002. Claims 32 and 36 depend on claim 26 and therefore are also allowable for at least the reasons claim 26 is allowable.

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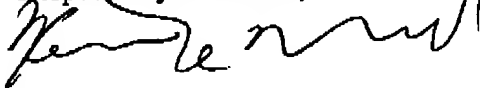
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is urged.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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